



# Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - John Gettinger      V. Pres. – Dave Hacker  
Treasurer – Robert Shepard      Secretary – Dale Brier

**September 12, 2012 1:00 pm**

Wabash & Erie Canal  
1030 N. Washington Street  
Delphi, IN 46923

## Meeting minutes

### **Voting Members Present:**

Allen County - Ron Zartman  
Carroll County - George Mears  
Cass County- Arin Shaver  
Fountain County - Robert Shepherd  
Gibson County - William Knowles  
Huntington County - Dave Hacker  
Knox County - Rama Sobhani  
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen  
Parke County - Phil Cox (alternate)  
Sullivan County - John Gettinger  
Tippecanoe County - Jim Andrew  
Vermillion County - Larry Southard  
Vigo County - Keith Ruble (alternate)  
Wabash County - Michael Beauchamp  
Warren County - Steve Eberly  
Wells County - Cindy Einselen (proxy)  
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

### **DNR Staff Present:**

Leah Kopp - DNR Nature Preserves

### **Guests:**

Jeff Gosnell – Vermillion County (alternate)  
Mike Kelly  
Dan McCain - Wabash & Erie Canal  
David McCain - Wabash & Erie Canal  
Sara Peel – Wabash River Enhancement Corp.  
Keith Poole -Wabash County (alternate)  
Rae Schnapp - Tippecanoe County (alternate)

### **Non-Voting Members Present:**

None

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt  
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel

### **Counties not participating**

Jay County

### **Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda**

President John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. After member introductions, John G. asked for proxies; Scott Elzey gave his to Cindy Einselen, Ryan Noblitt gave his to John Gettinger, and Ralph Weinzapfel, gave his to Bill Knowles. John G. thanked George Mears and Dan McCain for hosting the meeting, the wonderful trolley tour and the canal ride. He also thanked George for the delicious vegetable soup that he had prepared for lunch.

An addition to the agenda was made to discuss new shirts for commission members during new business by Dave H. A motion was then made to accept the addition to the agenda by Larry S. with a second by Jim A., motion passed.

### **Comments from Visitors or Guests**

Dan McCain asked if there was going to be any discussion about the grant round. Dale then asked Dan if he had a specific question. Dan's question centered on the priorities between

different project types, he was wondering if things could be mixed between one priority and another. Dale replied you could, but only the highest priority counts.

### **Review and Approval of July 11, 2012 Minutes**

Bob Shepherd made a motion to approve the July 11 minutes with a second from Larry Southard, motion carried.

### **President's Report (John G.)**

John reported that he continues to help with Sullivan County 8<sup>th</sup> grade Wabash River paddling event. He attended a West Central Water Alliance Meeting. He had also attended an Executive Committee Meeting in Indianapolis on September 10. The Committee consisted of the President, Vice President and Treasurer.

### **Finance Report (Dale Brier)**

Dale announced that the current balance of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) is \$435,334.70 (see attached report). He then mentioned that the upcoming grants would encumber \$400,000. Phil C. brought up the question of the \$8,000 administrative fee that the state had taken out of the fund, more discussion then followed. Mike B. then asked that a letter be written to the State Budget Agency inquiring about the fees and how they were decided upon. It then became a motion with Mike B. making the motion and a second followed by Jim A. the motion carried. John G. will write and send the letter.

### **Committee Reports**

**Budget** - No changes to the budget have been made.

**Grants** - Dale reported that the Grant Staff is working with groups to get applications in by the October 1 deadline. As of yesterday, there were five or six potential applicants. He feels confident that the money will be spent.

**Legislative** - There was much discussion involving the upcoming election. Discussion then turned to Conservation Day. A motion was made by Phil C. to join the Conservation Alliance for a fee of \$150 and it was followed by a second from Rae S. Dave H. wanted to know what the Commission would get from the membership. Phil C. replied that it would be a seat at the table and networking. The commission would also receive minutes every month, he added. Rae S. said she would invite Angela Hughes to the next meeting. Dale will check to see if it is legal for the Commission to join the Alliance. George M. then made a motion to table it until the next meeting followed by a second from Larry S. Motion carried.

**Water Trail** - Dale passed out a map of the water trail progress showing the information gathered so far. Dale does not have public access and information from Carroll, Knox, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, and Warren counties. If you have not submitted your information, you need to get it to Dale as soon as possible.

**Banks of the Wabash** - Rae S. and Ken E. had nothing to report.

### **Old Business**

**Newport Chemical Depot** - Larry S. reported that there are some places to put in campsites near the river but he is still trying to find out who really owns the land. He cannot find the where it was recorded at. Dale added that leases and easements should be recorded at the Courthouse.

Dale did say that if Larry ever had any questions that he could always call the State Land Office. John G. added that in the past, he had appeared before the Vermillion County Park Board and they said that they would be very interested in trying to establish the site there.

**River Currents: Next edition article submission** - As always, please send your articles to [SueandTedUlrich@msn.com](mailto:SueandTedUlrich@msn.com) John suggested that if anyone has an article that they would like published to please submit it as soon as possible.

**Indiana Bicentennial in 2016** - No report.

**War of 1812 Bicentennial** - Ken E. announced that there were several events going on but also added that nothing new has been scheduled to the earlier list of events that he had sent out. Mississinewa 1812 will be in October of this year and Ken will be participating. He mentioned that it would be a rather large event this year since it was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Rae S. said that the Mississinewa 1812, which will be held October 12 – 14, is really worth going to see.

**River Road and Heritage Community Sign Programs** - Dave H. passed out a map that showed the designated river road running from Allen County to Wabash County. He has checked with the Highway Superintendent and has driven the route and the signs are sparse. At one time, it was well signed. Ron Z. made the comment that he had biked the same road a couple of weeks ago and not seen a single sign. Community signs at Huntington and Markle are up at the edge of town. Ken E. said that the WRHCC has still never designated a river road route along the corridor and it needs to be done if we want signage posted.

Dale reminded everyone that you could not post signs because your highway department will just come in and take them down. You have to work with either your local or state department of transportation to get authorization to put them up. Ken E. mentioned the quality of the WRHCC signs, they doesn't match the quality of the sign that the state will allow to be put up so new signs would have to be printed if the state is willing to put them up. Our signs are engineering grade and something else is required for INDOT.

**Bridges and Railings** - Keith R. said that he was going to meet with Alan Plunkett, the INDOT District Deputy Commissioner for his area, to talk about bridges and a project in Vigo County. Keith also mentioned that INDOT had just completed a new bridge across US Highway 40 in Terre Haute that is tremendous. He added that he had been working with DNR director, Rob Carter about getting an animal crossing going from Terre Haute to West Terre Haute. Keith has spoken with the head engineer at Rose-Hulman University because they do senior design projects. The project would be very expensive and it would be something unique for this part of the county. Dale added that the old Transportation Enhancements (TE) grants had a provision for wildlife crossings, Dale doesn't know if the new Transportation Alternatives (TA) grants from Federal Highways still has that component in it or not. He suggested that Keith might look into that as a funding source.

## **New Business**

**River Cleanups** - Ken E. stated that a river clean up would take place October 13 in Peru at 9 AM organized by the Peru city utilities.

Mike B. then spoke about the De-trash the Wabash that was held on July 28 by the Wabash River Defenders. A total of 25 tons had been pulled from the river over the years, a handout had the breakdown. Over 400 people were in the river this year. The \$1,000 sponsorship by the WRHCC helped, he was also happy that the Wabash County Commissioners have implemented

a dumping ordinance with a fine up to \$10,000 if caught and convicted. Mike added that this is will help educate the public.

**Website** - Dale announced that the website is done. It has pictures on it and all of the information about the commission. Events can be added as needed. If members want something added, they need to send it to Dale with details and links.

**Future Meetings and Locations** - The November 14 meeting will be held in Lafayette, Dale will provide the directions and any other information once Rae S. submits it. Ft. Harrison in Indianapolis was also mentioned as a potential meeting location away from downtown for the January meeting, which will be held on January 9. The meeting could be held in the Education Center at Ft. Harrison.

**New Shirts for Commission Members** - New shirts were discussed, newer style such as a dress shirt might be taken into consideration. Dale mentioned that funding would not be a problem. Bob S. made a motion to buy new shirts, Dave H. made the second and the motion carried. A shirt committee was appointed by the President and members include Larry S., Kara K., Rama S., and Dale B. Some suggestions included a long sleeve gender friendly shirt with the same logo design and blue color.

#### **Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion**

**River Events** - September 8 & 9 is Art on the Wabash; September 15 & 16 is the Feast of the Hunter's Moon; and a Benefit Bow fishing Shootout will take place on September 29 in Attica, IN.

**Final comments** - Keith R. made the comment that he did not know if anyone had noticed the lower Wabash, but this is the cleanest and clearest the river has ever been. With no rain, little agricultural runoff or silt is going into the river. Keith also went on to say the National Resource Conservation Service points out is if you want to have healthy soil that plowing or chiseling are killing the mycorrhizae in the soil. It is one of the most important things to save, and will increase yields.

Dan McCain appreciated George M. setting the meeting up and everyone coming up to see what Delphi was all about. He shared the fact that if you were walking out in front of the museum that you were actually walking on the official towpath trail.

Keith R. made the motion to adjourn at 2:57 PM with a second by Jim A.

**Next Meeting** – November 14, 2012 1:00 p.m. at the Big 4 Depot in Lafayette.

WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR  
Fund 48686 Fiscal year 2013

Revenue	
431401 AD - Oil and Gas royalty along	26,148.47
Expenses	
510101 Payroll Salaries & Wages	3,108.10
516003 Payroll Social Security	217.30
517003 Payroll Perf St Pd Em COnt	93.25
517005 Payroll PERF State Share	301.49
518105 Anthem CDHP1	129.60
518107 Anthem CDHP 2	165.63
518151 Anthem Trad 2	170.34
518606 Payroll Life Insurance	4.21
518798 Payroll Delta Dental Trad	24.48
518800 Anthem Vision	2.41
518901 Payroll Employee Assistance	0.55
519006 Payroll Long Term Disability	54.37
Total salaries and wages	4,271.73
519503 Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	23.60
519721 Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	12.98
519725 Payroll Health Savings Acct 2	8.30
541002 Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	135.24
547026 SpOp-Awards & Gifts	135.00
595110 InState Travel - Mileage	1,148.40
599116 AdmOp-Event Sponsor	1,000.00
Total operating expenses	2,463.52
Total Expenses	6,735.25

**Division of Outdoor Recreation**  
**FY 2013 Wabash River Heritage Corridor**  
**Fund 48686**

As of September 11, 2012

Beginning	
Balance July 1,	
2012	415,921.48
Revenue	26,148.47
Expenses	(6,735.25)
Current Balance	435,334.70